

Draft System Design Plan creates framework for future growth in state's higher ed system

Work is nearly complete on a recommended framework for decision making on how to grow Washington's public higher education system in the years ahead.

A Board vote on the final draft of the new System Design Plan is scheduled for the HECB's Nov. 19 meeting at Renton Technical College. The Study Group, representing a cross section of the higher education community, has been working on the plan for months.

HECB Executive Director Ann Daley outlined the draft plan's four basic elements at the Oct. 27 meeting:

- A set of guiding principles for making future growth decisions.
- A near-term strategy to grow enrollment without major capital investment.
- A proposal for twin processes – one locally initiated; the other state-initiated – to evaluate major new capital investment proposals and make legislative recommendations.
- A new Blue Arrow Fund for Innovation to provide competitive grants fostering innovation, pilot programs, collaboration and system productivity.

The plan is intended to help the state and its public and independent institutions continue progress toward the ambitious degree-attainment goals contained in the 2008 *Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*.

Following Board action on Nov. 19, the plan will be sent to the Legislature in December. The next step could be the drafting of legislation to incorporate the system-expansion processes into law. [Read more.](#)

HECB fine tuning tuition recommendations

Also at its October meeting, the Board considered a draft of the Tuition Flexibility Study required by the 2009 Legislature. Further review and revision of the draft were recommended. The report is due in December.

The study recommends the state re-establish itself as the primary shareholder in its public higher education system by establishing a relatively simple cost-sharing policy:

State funding would constitute **no less** than 55 percent of future instructional costs, while tuition and fees would provide **no more** than 45 percent of those costs. More discussion is taking place about how this 55/45 model might work given different state revenue conditions.

The state also would continue to provide significant levels of financial assistance to help keep higher education affordable for those from families with very low incomes.

The Legislature directed the HECB and key stakeholders to examine tuition options and make policy recommendations to ensure flexibility, access and affordability. Tuition models based on family income, course level, type of degree program, and hours enrolled were among those studied.

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In December, the Washington Scholarship Coalition will launch the WashBoard, a website designed to simplify the student search for scholarships. Learn more at www.thewashboard.org

CTC Student Achievement Initiative

The HECB has adopted a new State Board for Community and Technical Colleges performance measurement system, designed to reward progress and encourage improvement in student performance within the CTC system. [Read more.](#)

Film contest

Thirty entries were received in the HECB's student film contest. The contest asked middle and high school students to create videos that encourage thought about and preparation for college. Winners will be announced in mid-November and posted on YouTube.



Executive Director's Report

Ann Daley, HECB Executive Director, presented updates on various initiatives.

Technology Transformation Taskforce

The task force is looking at ways to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of education through the strategic use of technology.

HECB staff and members of the taskforce executive committee met in October to outline the scope of the project and establish processes to gather the information necessary to inform further work.

Regular discussions also have been held with Rep. Reuven Carlyle, D-Seattle, the prime sponsor of the technology transformation legislation. An interim report is due to the Legislature in December.

Portal Work Group

The Portal Work Group has completed a review of other states that have developed similar privacy-protected access points enabling students to review information about their college programs. A report is due to the Legislature Dec. 1.

Performance agreements

Staff-level discussions involving the HECB, Council of Presidents, Governor's office and legislators are looking at possible legislation to move the performance agreement effort forward.

Washington Scholars Luncheon

Due to budget constraints, the Washington Scholars luncheon, jointly sponsored by the HECB and the Association of Washington School Principals, will not be held in 2010.

Transfer pathways result in more efficient completion of baccalaureate work

Two-year degree programs that encourage students to choose a baccalaureate degree pathway before transferring to a four-year institution are producing more bachelor's degrees in less time, a study conducted by the HECB has determined.

Established transfer pathways in business and the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) also cut costs by reducing the number of unnecessary courses taken on the road to a degree.

The study of the 2006 graduating class was conducted as a follow-up to a 2003 study by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Other findings:

- Students who earn bachelor's degrees after transferring from a two-year institution are generally older than those who enter four-year institutions as freshmen.
- Most 2006 college graduates had attended two or more colleges.
- The majority of transfer students who successfully earned bachelor's degrees had completed remedial coursework at the community and technical college level.

[Read more.](#)

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Passport Update

A breakthrough data exchange agreement with DSHS is helping identify foster care youth who are eligible for financial aid through the Passport to College program. [Hear the full report on YouTube.](#)

College Bound Growth

College Bound Scholarship applications continue to come in strong. The program has registered 2,800 students in the new school year, compared to 1,280 the same time a year ago. More than 45,000 middle and junior high school students have signed up since the program began in 2007.

Mark your calendar:

NEXT HECB meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2009
Renton Technical College

Joint meeting with the
Workforce Training &
Education Coordinating
Board (WTECB)
10 a.m. – 12 noon

Regular Meeting
1 – 4:30 p.m.

Check back after Nov. 12,
for agenda items at:
www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp

On the preliminary agenda:

- System Design Plan adoption
- Tuition Study adoption
- College Access Portal Plan report